

# LONG ISLAND U.F.O. UPDATE

VOLUME: II

ISSUE: VI

"THE LONG ISLAND U.F.O. UPDATE"  
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JUNE

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1991



ISLAND SKYWATCH EXPOSED; THE CASE AGAINST BILL KNELL !!!

# NYUFO

NEW

*Videos*  
SELECTIONS

## Say he sold guns, ammo to 'anyone'



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ed were new wep  
boxes with it  
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ons

### Gun Dealer Held

By United Press International  
A Queens gun dealer believed to  
have sold more than 1,000 handguns  
legally in the last year was arrested  
today after the police recovered  
40 guns in his mother's apart-  
ment. The dealer, William Knell, 71,  
77th Road, had a  
license for handgun

### ISLAND SKYWATCH

164-22 77th ROAD  
FLUSHING, NY 11366  
HOTLINE (718) 380-8644

"IFOS ON LONG ISLAND"

DISPLAY AND LECTURE PROG  
BY ISLAND SKYWATCH  
WILLIAM KNELL

U.F.O. HOAXES

BOOTLEG VIDEOS.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

COPYRIGHT FRAUD.

MEDIA MANIPULATION.



**WILLIAM KNELL**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VIDEO SCAMS

LACKS EXPERTISE

RESEARCH MATERIAL  
THIEVERY AND EXPLOITATION

DISCREDITED RESEARCHER

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

THE CONTINUED EXPOSE ON LONG ISLAND'S DISCREDITED  
U.F.O. RESEARCH ORGANIZATION AND BILL KNELL.  
PART II

\*\*\*\* Just when everyone thought the summer was going to be slow and a lot of free time on their hands, the folks at L.I.U.F.O.N. were lulled into a false sense of complacency. It seems the public demanded LIUFON keep busy. \*\*\*\* During the month of June LIUFON and its staff were busy as usual. \*\*\*\* Dick Ruhl appeared on WNYG with Joel Martin for LIUFON discussing the Crop Circle Phenomenon in Great Britain. The hour show was aired over the radio waves and sparked a lot of interest in the discussion. Dick Ruhl as usual did a very professional job. \*\*\*\* During June, Chairman John Ford was interviewed by 27 radio stations across the Country. The topic was U.F.O. Abductions. Discussed as an example was the James LeFante Case which caused several stations to contact James to discuss his case on the air. Some of the stations that were involved were: KXRX, Seattle Wash.; KRBE, Houston, Texas; KHBT, San Jose, Calif.; CIPL, Vancouver, Canada; CBLO, Toronto, Canada; KONA, Tri City Wash.; KODM, Odessa, Texas; KEYS, Corpus Christi, Texas; WZOU, Boston, Mass; KAPF, Monterey, Calif.; KVEN, Ventura, Calif; WGBR, Buffalo, New York; WBZ, Boston, Mass.; CKIV, Calgary, Canada; KSSK, Honolulu, Hawaii; and KUBE in Seattle Washington. \*\*\*\* One station in Pheonix interviewed John Ford for two hours on their late night talk show concerning the Moriches Bay Case. The reaction to some of the information was total shock or disbelief by the call in response that a incident of this nature could occur on Long Island ( the downing of an alien space ship ). Yes people it did ! \*\*\*\* The journal will be out very soon. It will be devoted to the entire case report concerning the Moriches bay Case. \*\*\*\*\* Leonard Stringfield has received permission to publish from LIUFON the entire Moriches Bay Case Report in his forth coming Journal concerning U.F.O. Crash Retrievals. Leonard Stringfield in his Journal will also verify that he has spoken to the Brookhaven Laboratory Scientist by phone concerning this case through arrangements with the witness and LIUFON. Yes people, he does exist. Leonard will verify this in his Journal. \*\*\*\*\* Upon reading the report Leonard Stringfield stated to LIUFON that his impression was the incident will provoke a lot of discussion in the U.F.O. Community. \*\*\*\* He also praised LIUFON for its fine investigative efforts into the incident and he was impressed with the effort LIUFON made in investigating it. \*\*\*\*\* On July 20th, LIUFON will be presenting a Library talk from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Lindenhurst Public Library featuring a slide presentation on the Moriches Bay Case plus several video clips. Don't miss it !!! ( It's also free and open to the public ) \*\*\*\* LIUFON is planning to commence this fall a lecture blitz across the Island concerning the Moriches Bay Case to bring public attention to it. The membership will be kept informed on future dates. \*\*\*\* LIUFON is also gearing up for another season of membership meetings. Arrangements are being made to hold meetings in other Libraries around the Island. \*\*\*\*\* Members will be advised as to those dates. \*\*\*\*\* Members, if you belong to a civic group that is interested in having LIUFON speak at a meeting, please call us to make arrangements. \*\*\*\*\* The reaction to the continuing expose on Island Skywatch and Bill Knell has been one of praise amongst the UFO Research Community here in New York and across the Nation. A lot of researchers have contacted the LIUFON to commend LIUFON's efforts to expose this discredited organization and its leader Bill Knell for his dishonesty and character. LIUFON will keep the public informed concerning the disreputable activities of this and any other bogus research group or researcher. It is the only way to police the Research Community and that is to do it ourselves. \*\*\*\*\* As this issue goes to press, it has been reported that Dick Ruhl has taken a mild heart attack (See the special notice). All members are asked to send their Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to this fine gentleman and you are asked to keep him in your prayers. A speedy recovery Dick, from LIUFON God Bless you !!! \*\*\*\* 30.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

The schedule for the next three monthly membership meetings has just been concluded with the South Country Library. The listing for the forth coming dates are as follows:

July 26th, at 6:30 P.M.: Meeting dealing with the phenomenon of the legend of "Bigfoot" and the "Yeti". A departure from the regular U.F.O. fare, but interesting none the less. This video documentary presents startling evidence for the existence of these legendary creatures.

August 16th at 6:30 P.M.: A video presentation dealing with the topic of U.F.O.s from the Arthur C. Clarke series, "Mysterious World". This short video presentation deals with many interesting U.F.O. cases reported in Great Britain and presents a mildly skeptical view on the subject. It is interesting none the less.

September 27th at 6:30 P.M.: This is a repeat for our members who may remember this being presented earlier this year, but it is interesting for all concerned. LIUFON has had requests for it to be shown again. This is the famous Bill Cooper address to the Las Vegas MUFON Convention of 1989. Mr. Cooper alleges to have seen in 1972 while serving in Naval Intelligence startling briefing papers dealing with the whole aspect of the U.F.O. phenomenon. Treaties with aliens, bases on the Moon, alien contact, abductions, alien bases in the U.S. and a Secret Government that controls it all. Hear the startling revelations that made U.F.O. history in one of the most controversial statements made to date concerning the U.F.O. Question and then decide for yourself is it fantasy or fact. A must for all to see.

All the membership meetings will be held at the South Country Library in Bellport Village. The meetings will start at 6:30 P.M. and end at 8:30 P.M.. The meetings are open to the membership and their guests. The general public is invited to attend. The meetings will be held in the Library Community Room.

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### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Members, LIUFON regrets to announce that Dick Ruhl, noted U.F.O. Researcher and LIUFON Investigator and Consultant has suffered a minor heart attack. Dick is out of danger and has been discharged from the Hospital after suffering a minor blockage. All members wishing to send get well cards are asked to send them to:

Dick Ruhl  
649 Central Avenue  
Massapequa, New York, 11758

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### OPERATION LONG ISLAND SKYWATCH:

The weekend excursions to areas of high U.F.O. activity continues each Saturday night. Those wishing to help with the continuing effort to photograph U.F.O. activity, please call each week for information on that week's Skywatch Operation. Contact the Hotline for info.

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### JOURNAL:

The long awaited release of the Journal will be in the first week of August. It will be a comprehensive report on the Moriches Bay Case and will be released in two installments. The second installment will be released in the end of September. The Journal is only sent to members.





## ISLAND SKYWATCH EXPOSED:

### THE CASE AGAINST BILL KNELL !!!

#### PART II

\*\*\*\*\*

The last issue of, "The Long Island U.F.O. Update", was devoted to exposing the rise and decline of the infant U.F.O. Research Group known as, "Island Skywatch", and to exploring the capabilities and activities of its leader Bill Knell.

This issue will continue to explore this controversial group and Bill Knell who now heads this organization. The purpose of this expose is to alert the public, our membership and the U.F.O. community to the real nature of this organization and the purpose to which it is now directed. It is also to expose the activities and character of Bill Knell in order to educate the general public as to the direction he employs his organization and U.F.O. Research. The purpose of this is to let you the reader understand the issues and facts that are involved here.

( THE EDITORS )

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE BEGINNING OF ISLAND SKYWATCH

After Bill Knell was expelled from the Long Island U.F.O. Network in February 1989, he immediately returned to his own personal research on the U.F.O. Phenomenon.

LIUFON has evidence to support the claim that immediately after his expulsion from LIUFON, he continued to use the name of LIUFON claiming affiliation still with the organization as an official representative. In March of 1989, he gave a lecture at the Nesconset Public Library acting as a self appointed LIUFON Representative. Library officials at this branch and several others have confirmed this to LIUFON officials. Mr. Knell had neither the permission nor authority to do so from LIUFON.

It is around this time that he rejoined MUFON and resumed his association with that organization. He became at some point after that the Queens County Section Director for New York MUFON. From all apparent indications, he also continued his lectures and his video business.

Some time in April of that year, he was contacted by several members of New York MUFON who were forming a independent research group to investigate local UFO sightings independent of MUFON. He eventually was asked to attend some of the preliminary organizational meetings of the group.

The principles that were involved in the forming of Island Skywatch were Diane Montrose, Phil Lord, Herb Taylor and Robert Atlas. The organization was functioning prior to Bill Knell joining the group and was obviously not founded by him.

Sometime in June 1989, Island Skywatch was formed. At a meeting in which Bill Knell attended where the other co-founders were present, the group was drafted and given a name. Those present were made the "Steering Committee" to run the organization. Bill Knell was elected to be the official spokesperson of the group, but not its chief executive. The Steering Committee would run the organization.

*[Handwritten signature/initials at the bottom right]*

January 26, 1991.

Mr. Walter Andrus  
c/o Mutual U.F.O. Network  
103 Oldtown Road  
Seguin, Texas 78155-4099

Mr. Andrus:

I parted from your organization with a letter that explained my position in the matters that you brought to my attention. I left it up to you whether or not you would remove me from the position which you asked me to fill. You ignored my letter and addressed matters unrelated to my letter and "fired" me. I understood your reasons for doing that and, while I disagreed with you wholeheartedly, I left matters lie and didn't renew my subscription to THE MUFON UFO JOURNAL, feeling that I would not like to invest another \$25.00 in an organization that had benefitted from my promotion, efforts and funds only to reward me in such a matter as you did.

Not wanting to let personal feelings and differences interfere with peoples rights to have knowledge of MUFON, I left your organization of my recommended UFO Organization list (and, I'm sure you have benefitted from that). Yet, the very person that I recommended to you as the new Queens State Section Director to replace me when I took the other position with MUFON, Mr. David P. Lord, has been using his position with MUFON to slander and defame me. I have allowed this to go on for a certain period of time because I've been too busy to be bothered. But, recently Mr. Lord made incorrect, slanderous and defaming statements about me on a cable television program in this area while identifying himself as a MUFON official.

Please note that I am politely requesting that you request Mr. Lord to cease this type of behaviour. MUFON is responsible, in a legal sense, for the actions of it's officers. I am NOT a Dr. Henry or Bill English-type. I will gladly take this matter to civil court (as the cable station that sired this interview has already discovered, as well as the producer). So, once again, I'm politely asking that you deal with this type of behaviour before all involved regret it. Needless to say, I regret my recommendation of Mr. Lord. No further correspondence is necessary, I will know if this matter has been dealt with by Mr. Lord's future behaviour (which I will be carefully monitoring). The same goes for Mr. Huneus.

Sincerely,

BILL KNELL

\*\*\*\*\*

This is Bill Knell's letter of reply to Walt Andrus where he acknowledges the fact that he has been fired from his position in MUFON. Upon reading the letter one can see the usual attitude of Mr. Knell that he has done nothing wrong to merit the firing from MUFON and that everyone is slandering him by telling the truth about him. Apparently Mr. Knell feels that he is above criticism and that he is being persecuted by others. As one can plainly see in the letter he is once again threatening people with his "Famous", lawsuits. Maybe he will show for a change for these threatened legal proceedings.

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The fact of the matter is LIUFON learned from former members of Island Skywatch Steering Committee, Bill Knell was never the intended leader of the organization. He was made the spokesperson for the group only. As time went by, he assumed more and more authority over the group until it was dominated by him. This situation arose because the other people involved were working people with jobs to hold down and could devote only their free time to the organization. Bill Knell seemed to have plenty of time and resources to devote to his effort to build up Island Skywatch. That is where the matter rested. Bill Knell assumed the mantle of leadership and authority of Island Skywatch from the other members. What was a co-operative effort became the effort of one dominating personality.

It was an effort to be admired. Bill Knell deserves credit for leading an impressive effort to build from scratch a new organization. He immediately started to attract public attention by holding library talks all over the metropolitan area. It soon resulted in a speaking campaign that stretched from New York City to the end of Long Island. It involved speaking to standing room only crowds in public libraries to speaking to gatherings of interested citizens at public speaking engagements before civic groups and non-profit organizations.

Bill Knell has stated publicly that during the years of 1989 to 1990 he gave more than sixty-eight free of charge lectures and addresses on Long Island. He prided himself on this fact. One fact he does not emphasize is the one that at the end of his talks he usually pushed his tapes for sale.

During this time he attracted a wide following from the news media. The first of which was the daily, Newsday, which ran a major metropolitan wide article on him in June of 1989. It was the start for him for a major media blitz which saw him push not only Island Skywatch, but Bill Knell. In only a few articles did he allow other members of the organization to gain public attention. He was the main attraction. Bill Knell was the featured article.

During the months ahead, Bill Knell gained more attention from the news media. His talks at public gatherings attracted wide attention from weekly publications on Long Island. He even gained Television attention from the Oprah Winfrey and Joan Rivers Shows where he presented his case on UFOs according to Bill Knell. He even did a radio Show program with Joel Martin of all people. Bill Knell was popular and a hot news item.

The organization grew in its first year by leaps and bounds. Its estimated membership at one point was close to one hundred and fifty members. It attracted membership from other states and throughout the metropolitan area.

The tape sales were brisk too. At some of his meetings witnesses scooped up his flyers and brought several tapes which he had on sale at the presentation. Books, articles and audio cassettes were offered too. A public starved for information on the subject welcomed the opportunity for more information on this growing fascination.

In all, Island Skywatch was an organization whose time had come. It appeared at one point to even surpass the popular acceptance of LIUFON.

The most major piece of public relations to befall Bill Knell's efforts was the Kissena Park Case in Queens. It would give him a major opportunity to exploit and sensationalize his organization in the public's eyes. It would also give him the opportunity to manipulate the public and the news media.

The question remains to this day whether the events depicted by Knell were factual or were hoaxed by him to gain media attention to launch his news media blitz. The evidence surrounding the event which he alleges to have happened have been proven to be deliberate lies. If indeed something did happen there it may have been tainted by Knell's wish to gain publicity, thus ruining the case's credibility.

## QUEENS PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

41-61 KISSENA BOULEVARD, SUITE 2077, FLUSHING, NY 11355

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION RELEASE  
(Talent Release)I, Bill Knell (copyright licensee) HEREBYAUTHORIZE Barry Gellisto record and use my name likeness and performance in  
the program tentatively entitled:ANY FOOTAGE FROM "A STRANGE HARVEST"

I further authorize, \_\_\_\_\_

(public access producer)

to use said program for any number of cablecasts on the  
QPTV Public Access Channels. I understand this tape  
will be used for not-for-profit purposes only.I also authorize the use of my name, likeness,  
biographical data and performance (in part or whole)  
for promotional purposes in connection with QPTV Public  
Access Channels.I agree to hold the Producer or QPTV harmless from any  
liability arising out of my performance in the program.I warrant and affirm that I am at least eighteen years  
of age and/or have the consent of parent or legal  
guardian to be included in the above named program.Bill Knell  
Participant\_\_\_\_\_  
Access Producer4/17/90  
Dated\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian (Minors only)

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a copy of the release signed by Bill Knell authorizing the airing of Linda Howe's Federally Copyrighted Documentary, "Strange Harvest" on Barry and Debbie Gellis' Show, "UFO's Today". Mr. Knell signed the release as a licensed copyright holder giving permission for the airing of the film. Upon further investigation, Barry Gellis learned that Bill Knell had no authority from Linda Howe to air the show nor was he a licensed distributor of the film. Barry learned that Bill Knell was also selling copies of the film through his, "Bootleg Video Business". Linda Howe had her attorney notify Mr. Knell not to sell her films. From latest indications he has resumed sales of her film. It is a clear cut case of copyright infringement.

The case alleges that persons unknown on a March night in 1989 reported a bright self illuminated object on the ground in Kissena Park. The unknown witnesses were on the Q-65 Bus which runs along the park. The driver of the Bus whose identity is also unknown and who never came forward publicly is allegedly to have stopped the bus and watched the object on the ground almost called for help on the bus's radio. The next day Bill Knell allegedly talked to a woman passenger witness who had called informing Knell of the event.

The next day Knell was on the scene along with other members of his group investigating the incident. The evidence collected from the investigation included soil samples from two rings of dead grass near the lake which Knell stated were landing circles, burnt bark from a willow tree facing the circle, gravel stones from within the circle of allegedly strange origin and magnetized light poles surrounding the area of the alleged landing.

Knell allegedly had Dr. William J. Fateley of Kansas State University analyze the soil samples which Knell stated indicated the soil to be cooked and dehydrated. The strange gravel from the circle was analyzed by Professor Ted Bennit of Nassau Community College who by the way lacks experience in analyzing UFO evidence and discovered that the stones were actually from Arruba. Dr Fateley, by the way was a scientific consultant to Project Blue Book and had experience investigating UFO landing sites.

With this evidence in hand Knell went to the news media and released his findings. Channels 7 and 5 in New York carried his story and subjected him to instant ridicule making him appear ridiculous. Knell appeared to the public as a clown.

The local newspapers did not treat him that way. The New York Tribune and The Flushing Tribune ran stories giving his allegations serious coverage. Other periodicals gave him full support and the story about the incident gained tremendous public acceptance.

In one of the stories, Mike Luckman of The New York Center for UFO Research inspected the site and felt that there was something wrong with the circle and did not appear to be right. Mike Luckman has had over twenty years of experience investigating the Phenomena and has seen UFO Landing Circles before. Mike did not want to embarrass Knell in front of the press with his suspicions. Recently he told LIUFON about this in a telephone interview.

Others did not trust Knell's findings. Kissena Park astronomer Dr Gregory Matloff analyzed the soil in the circles and concluded they were not the result of extreme heat. He noted that similar circles existed in all New York City Parks and they were not the result of UFO landings.

This was the impetus for Knell. His story of the Kissena Park Case made him the center of public attention with all its controversy. His acceptance as a leading UFO Researcher was made by the story. Yet questions began to arise about his findings both within and outside his organization.

There were lingering doubts about the evidence. It would soon prove to be his downfall. One of the major weaknesses in his case was that he never disclose to the public who the witnesses were even when he promised to have the lady witness speak on the Barry Farber Show, he could not produce her. In his own organization, he never disclosed to his own Steering Committee who her identity was. Yet again, the bus driver from the bus never stepped forward to talk.

These inconsistencies would prove his own downfall. He would also cause Phil Lord to become suspicious of his allegations concerning the case. Phil Lord was one of the founders of Island Skywatch. Diane Montrose was another.

Bill Knell also stated that the fish in the Pond at Kissena Park two weeks after the event died en masse and filled the surface of the Pond with bloated carcasses. Knell stated he was told this by one of the Park Rangers. This





COLEMAN S. VONKEVICZKY MMSE.  
15-40 15th Street, Suite 140  
JACKSON HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11172  
Tel. (718) 672-7948 U.S.A.

APR 10 1991

Dear John:

Enclosed please find some documentation on our efforts to collect the money on our case.

The Sheriff has <sup>no</sup> right to enter his apartment, in spite Knell's cousin. THE ENIGMA TAPE LIBRARY is located in his home.

Any assistance you need, do not hesitate to call me.

His home is on sale, but I firmly believe not a "single brick" stays on his home!

Friendly and cordially yours

Maj. *Coleman* Colman S. VonKeviczky, MMSE

Mr. John FORD, Chairman  
LONG ISLAND UFC NETWORK INC.

**This is a letter from Coleman Von Keviczky attesting to his attempts to collect the two thousand dollar judgement awarded by the Court for the video tapes stolen from Coleman by Bill Knell. Coleman has been unsuccessful so far.**

State of New York DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12228  
**VEHICLE TITLE RECORD**

3/25/91

REQUEST CODE

81-RT05 14

Title and Identification No	Year	Make	Model	Body/Full	Wt./Sts./Lght	Color	Fuel	Cyl./Prop.
G8CM1526GB177630	86	CHEVR	TK	VAN	3796	BL	GAS	6

**CURRENT OWNER:** HAY378 16 6040880004 5/10/86  
NITZCHE, MIRIAM, E  
156-06 43 AV FLUSHING, NY 11355

**LENDER:** BENEFICIAL NEW YORK INC 002  
38-15 MAIN STREET FLUSHING, NY 11354  
6091289561

**LENDER:** GENERAL MOTORS ACCEPTANCE CORP 001  
WEST TONER EAB PLAZA UNIONDALE, NY 11530  
6040880004

**This is a printout from the New York State Motor Vehicle Department attesting to the fact that Bill Knell's Chevy Van is owned by his mother. Bill Knell has been very successful in insulating himself from Civil judgements.**

**One wonders if Bill's mother knows of his activities and why so many people are suing him for the things he has done ?**

The Kissena Park Case would be one of Knell's strengths and also prove to be his downfall. There was trouble slowly brewing in Island Skywatch and it would slowly fall on him like a ton of bricks. It was all his own fault.

During this sudden rise to fame, Bill Knell met up with some of the most famous and important Researchers in Ufology. He met Bud Hopkins, Phil Imbrogno, Antonio Huenees, Colman Von Kirvizcky, John Keel, Jean Mundy, John White, Stanton Friedman, Linda Howe, Peter Robbins, Richard Price (Abductee), Bill English, Bill Cooper, Zecharia Sitchin, Wendel Stevens and Walt Andrus.

During this time Bill Knell retained his membership in the Mutual U.F.O. Network. In October of 1989, Mike Luckman sponsored a U.F.O. Conference in Manhattan where many luminaries gathered to call for a Congressional Investigation into the U.F.O. Phenomenon at a press conference at the end of the meeting. Here he met Walt Andrus, International Director of MUFON, who was very impressed with the man. He would eventually make him the Assistant State Director of N.Y. MUFON later that year. He would later in January of 1991 revoke that position from Knell when he received complaints from other researchers that Knell was faking U.F.O. evidence, slandering other Researchers in Island Skywatch's Newsletter and his Criminal History, plus Knell's selling of Bootleg Videos. Knell was removed from his position in MUFON by Andrus on the additional grounds that Knell was using his association with MUFON to advance himself rather than MUFON.

During this time Knell started to diversify his organization. He made Robert Atlas his Suffolk County Co-ordinator and Mr. Atlas ran a Hotline for Island Skywatch as a result. Mr. Knell would also stiff Mr. Atlas with a five hundred dollar phone bill for his efforts which was never paid for by Knell.

During this period, Knell never made any accounting to the Steering Committee as to the funds being collected. He also reported to the Steering Committee that he had received very few U.F.O. Sighting Reports over their various Hotlines. What little that did get through was not thoroughly investigated as alleged by Knell. This has been attested to by several members of the Steering Committee who gave this information to LIUFON in preparation for this report.

During 1991 Bill Knell transferred to UFO Researcher Bill English in New Mexico over 100 sighting reports which he collected from his endeavors to the custody of UFINET. Bill English ran this small computer access information system for other researchers and entered the reports for public access. These were the reports that Knell said that he never received.

In April of 1990, through the efforts of one Joseph Zuppardo a close friend he managed to obtain a small half hour show on public access T.V. on Brookhaven Cablevision. Lasting only some 12 episodes, the show was well received in Suffolk with the presentation of numerous UFO luminaries. Knell would have a serious falling out with Zuppardo that would have an effect on the show. The show was never renewed by Brookhaven Cablevision. One possible reason was Knell never would change his sweater from one episode to the next. He was also a poor anchor person with mediocre abilities to project himself on camera.

Around the time of the Kissena Park UFO Case, Knell made contact with Mike Crystal of Georgia who is a independent UFO Researcher. Mike Crystal learned of the Kissena Park Incident and advised him to contact Dr. Fately of Kansas State to do the soil tests needed. Knell said he would. Weeks later, Knell went public with statements that Dr. Fately had done the tests and the soil showed signs of exposure to extreme heat. This would be proven later by Phil Lord and Brian O'Connor of the Long Island Monthly to be false. The cracks began to appear in Knell's case. That is another story and will be carried in Part Three of the expose.

During Knell's rise, he met and befriended Barry and Debbie Gellis who run the Cable T.V. Show, U.F.O.s Today, on Brooklyn-Queens Public Access T.V.. The Gellis' were like most people impressed with Bill Knell and his efforts. Knell did a number of Shows with the Gellis' on their Cable Program.

November 19, 1990

Maj. Ret. Colman S. VonKeviczky  
ICUFON  
35-40 75th Street, Suite 4G  
Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372

Dear Mr. VonKeviczky,

Enclosed please find a release agreement I have prepared for your signature, together with a check for \$400.

Unfortunately, we cannot honor your request to provide you with a credit in any rebroadcast of the program. This would require our re-editing the program, which at this point in time, would be very difficult for us to do. I trust you will understand.

Thank you again for your courtesy in this matter. Please send the signed copy of the release to me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

*Diane Rappoport*

Diane Rappoport  
Legal & Business Affairs

\*\*\*\*\*  
This is a letter from the legal department of, "Harpo Productions Inc.", the producers of the, "Oprah Winfrey Show", acknowledging payment to Colman Von Keviczky for the use of the film footage which was aired on their program dealing with UFO's.

The film footage was from a documentary produced by ICUFON which was stolen from Mr. Von Kirviczky by Bill Knell. he subsequently sold it to Don Ecker of, "UFO Magazine".

Don Ecker was under the impression that Bill Knell was the holder of the Copyright to the film footage and when he was contacted by the producers of the, "Oprah Winfrey Show", Don naturally provided them with the footage which he had purchased from Knell. The exchange was for a small sum. Don Ecker, who is a reputable researcher and journalist, was taken in by Knell.

The one who suffered from all this was Colman Von Kirviczky, who was robbed of the footage by Knell and the legitimate proceeds from its sale. In the end, Colman was reimbursed for the loss as this letter testifies to. He and Don Ecker were two more victims of Knell's Con Game.

## THE LONG ISLAND SCENE.

\*\*\*\*\* The situation on the Island was a quiet one for the last two months with only a few reports coming in, but just when you thought things were getting quiet, then they get busy. \*\*\*\*\* LIUFON is on the scene as usual \*\*\*\*\* In the beginning of June it was reported to the Hotline from a lady in Hicksville that she observed a large oval object over Old Country road about 9:00 P.M. on the night of June 7th. The object was silver textured with no audible sounds emitting while it sailed to the West. The object had a red light and a white flashing light on its structure. She and her two girl friends pursued the object in their car while they kept it under observation only to lose it near Bridge Road in Hicksville. \*\*\*\*\* On the night of June 9th, the 15 year old son of one of our members reported to his mother who in turn called in the report concerning the sighting of a large cigar shaped object over Deer Park about 9:01 P.M.. The object came down from the sky at an extreme altitude and hovered at a 30 degree angle motionless without emitting any sounds. It was described as being smooth surfaced with a large red light at the front while at its rear it was emitting white sparks. The object suddenly disappeared. The witness told his mother the sighting lasted about two minutes and afterwards he noticed light aircraft which appeared and began to circle the area as if looking for something. \*\*\*\*\* On the night of July 5th at 1:00 A.M. in the area of the bayside Marina in Queens a witness by the name of Allen Gross observed while travelling on the Cross Island Parkway a large blimp shaped object which was highly illuminated about 250 feet in length 800 yards from the shore heading at a 150 foot altitude on a Easterly course. It was silent and lacked any gondola or engines. The gentleman thought he had observed the Met Life Blimp or the Virgin Lightship Blimp flying late at night. The next day he contacted both companies and was informed that the Met Life Blimp had landed at 11:00 P.M. at Republic airport while the Virgin Lightship Blimp had been on the ground in New Jersey. He decided to contact LIUFON to file a report. \*\*\*\*\* On Sunday, July 14th about 8:30 P.M. about 1/4 mile from the Meadow Brook Parkway Bridge to Jones Bridge an estimated 500 hundred witnesses observed a 1000 foot long cigar shaped object hovering above the area near Beach Four and near the Jones Beach Theater. The object was brightly illuminated and turned the early evening sky to daylight. The report was filed by Peter Kandle of LIUFON who learned of the event from two friends who who were there. \*\*\*\*\* In the first two cases Dick Ruhl checked and learned that there were no blimps flying on the nights of June 7 and 9th. \*\*\*\* In the Bayside Case the information the witness gave us was confirmed by contacting the Blimp companies! \*\*\*\*\* In the Jones Beach Case, LIUFON and Dick Ruhl learned that the Park Police and State Troopers had no record of the sighting while Park Authorities at the Superintendent's Office reported no knowledge of the event with no blimps over the area. The two Blimp Companies did not have their ships airborne that night. \*\*\*\*\* The conclusion is that there is a large cigar shaped object being seen around Long Island this summer both out here and in the city. \*\*\*\*\* There have been unexplained Sonic Booms along the South Shore of Long Island for the last three weeks. LIUFON has learned that they do not coincide with the Concord's arrival time at JFK. LIUFON has checked with the New Jersey Air National Guard and has learned that there are no military flights responsible. \*\*\*\*\* Are these Sky Quakes resuming their appearance ? Is more activity developing ? LIUFON is going to be kept busy. \*\*\*\*\*

The Gellis' befriended Knell by pushing his organization and providing ample air time for his opinions on the phenomenon. They were deeply interested in the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects. To provide their Cable T.V. audience with more programing, they asked Bill Knell if he had a copy of Linda Moulton Howe's documentary, "Strange Harvest", they could use for a program on UFO Animal Mutilations. Bill Knell answered in the affirmative, in fact he was a licensed distributor of the film for Mrs. Howe. He was authorized to use it for public performances and to sell copies for public consumption. He was gracious enough to sign a release for the Gellis' authorizing segments of the film to "air" on T.V.. After all what was the harm, Bill Knell was authorized by the film's owner to do so.

Being a careful journalist, Barry Gellis solicited Mrs. Howe's phone number and contacted her directly. He also informed her that Bill Knell had signed the release on her behalf. She denied that Mr. Knell had any authority to do so since he was not a licensed distributor of her film.

Barry further informed her thst he was distributing and selling copies of her film. She denied he had any permisssion by her to do so. Incensed, Linda Howe contacted her attorney in Denver, Colorado and instructed him to send a letter to Knell instructing him to desist in the sale and distribution of her taped documentary. Knell complied by stating he was under the mistaken impression when Linda Howe supplied him with a free tape for Island Skywatch, it was also to sell and distribute the film as a licensed distributor. Linda Howe has told LIUFON that no such authority was ever given Mr. Knell.

Bill Knell complied with the request and ceased selling copies of the film. Recently Barry Gellis informed LIUFON that he has again begun to sell the film, since Barry has recently seen some flyers distributed by Knell advertising sale of the film.

Linda Howe became one of the victims of Knell's Bootleg Video Business. She would not be the last one to suffer his cruel, deceitful tactics of making a fast buck.

After this incident, Barry Gellis felt that he could not rely on Knell and his word. He was in a state of shock. Here was supposedly a highly regarded researcher, being caught red-handed in Copyright fraud and infringement. He became suspicious of his activities and began to check on Mr. Knell's background.

Meanwhile, things began to heat up in Island Skywatch. Diane Montrose, Phil Lord, Bob Atlas, Herb Taylor and other members were becoming a little suspicious of Knell and his UFO claims. Knell was consistently turning up landing circles all over the Island. Some of his claims were not backed up with scientific evidence and were lacking in credibility.

In November of 1991, Bob Atlas left his organization when he had several disagreements with Knell and was not paid for his phone bill. Mr. Atlas also had had problems with some of the other members on the Steering Committee.

During this time period Diane Montrose became increasing disillusioned with Knell and his organization. One reason occurred in the summer of 1990 when Knell had asked her to print in the newsletter a slanderous article ridiculing LIUFON. She refused. The other reasons were Knell was being caught in constant lies.

A number of former Steering Committee members have stated the same thing. In fact, Knell has been characterized as being a "pathological liar", by many of his former associates both in the organization and outside research circles.

The straw that broke the camel's back came with the infamous hoax concerning the South African U.F.O. Crash. This case involved a recovery of a crashed U.F.O. by South African Military Forces in the Khalhari Desert. The story was leaked by a South African Air Force Deserter by the name of James Van Gruenen to the then West German magazine "Bunte". The story involved both photographs of dead alien bodies and South African Government documents supporting the recovery of the alleged alien craft.

Antonio Huneus cautioned Knell that he strongly suspected the case as being a hoax. Knell had secured the pictures of the dead bodies and the documents from a reliable source by fax, namely from Van Gruenen. He then began to circulate the pictures and documents in addition to selling them as the great "UFO Evidence", sent especially to him.



When confronted as to where he got the documents, Knell would not confirm the Fax Number he got it from. He began to state that he got them from German Researcher Michael Hesseman ( who challenged Knell to prove it ) who was investigating the case.

In short Knell went onto his T.V. program with the photos citing them as real. In fact, they were pictures of a mummified Indian child from a "UFO Magazine" article. Van Gruenen was proven a hoax along with his documents by many researchers.

This led to Antonio Huneeus resigning from Island Skywatch, since Knell began to slander Hesseman for exposing Knell's stupidity. The incident led to several of Island Skywatch's Steering Committee to resign. One of the first was Diane Montrose.

Diane Montrose discovered that Knell marketed a catalogue which he mailed to his clients. In it, Knell sold "Bootleg" copies of other researchers lectures and Federally Copyrighted T.V. programs and documentaries. He was also selling copies of other organization's publications, newsletters and audio recordings. All of this without obvious permission of the owners or payment of royalties.

In an effort to expose him, Diane sent copies of his catalogue to the victims involved in the Research Community alerting them. Knell has never forgiven her for this to this day. She has earned his wrath and slander as a result.

Soon the lid blew on the Kissena Park Case. Knell had been caught in a lie and apparently fabricated some of the evidence in the case. In an interview given to the magazine, "Long Island Monthly", reporter Brian O'Connor discovered Knell had never contacted Dr. Fately who denied knowing Knell or studying any soil samples. In addition, Park authorities were shooting holes in his whole case. Other analyses showed the soil did not suffer from exposure to extreme heat and the circles were the result of a tree being removed which had been struck by lightning.

As a result, the Steering Committee of Island Skywatch resigned in protest. They were fed up with being lied to by Knell. Herb Taylor, Phil Lord and Diane Montrose left. They also sent a letter to the membership exposing Knell.

Island Skywatch was faling down. Its members began to leave also. It was in a shambles by the fall of 1990. In light of this, The Flushing Tribune, ran story dealing with the organization's problems and its collapse. The story was out in the public eye.

One story that has surfaced around this time concerns internationally known U.F.O. Researcher Colman Von Kirviczky, founder and head of the Intercontinental U.F.O. Network. Colman was also a victim of Knell. It would also involve Don Ecker of, "UFO Magazine", who was another victim.

In his brief association with Knell, Colman loaned Knell five video tapes which Colman owned. Four of them dealt with T.V. appearances Colman had made on popular programs dealing with the UFO subject. one was a copy of a documentary owned by ICUFON which contained five stunning film footages of UFO's from around the world. Knell never returned them and began to sell the tapes through his catalogue.

Colman took Knell to Queens Small Claims Court on a Civil Suit for \$2000 damages. Knell never showed up and Colman won his case. To this date not a dime has been collected in damages since Knell has closed out his bank accounts and retains title to his car in his mother's name.

In addition, the film footage of the UFO's were sold by Knell to Don Ecker, who believed Knell held title to them, who sold them to the "Oprah Winfrey Show", for a show on UFOs. Colman Von Kirviczky sued the producers for airing his property and won an out of court settlement reimbursing him financially. Both Colman and Don were victims of Knell. Knell steals research material from researchers so he can reward himself financially.

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PART III, IN JULY'S NEWSLETTER.

THE CONCLUSION:

ISLAND SKYWATCH EXPOSED; THE CASE AGAINST BILL KNEEL.

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